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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Fiji*, Ghana*, Nigeria*, Philippines and Thailand: draft resolution

Traffic in women and girls

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming its faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2/ the International Covenants on Human Rights, 3/ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 4/ the Convention on the Rights of the Child 5/ and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 6/

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

2/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

3/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI).

4/ General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

5/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

6/ General Assembly resolution 48/104, annex.

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 49/166 of 23 December 1994 and 50/167 of 22 December 1995, Commission on the Status of Women resolution 39/6 of 29 March 1995 7/ and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1994/45 of 4 March 1994 8/ and 1995/25 of 3 March 1995 9/ on the traffic in women and girls,

Concurring with the conclusions and recommendations made by recent international conferences, including the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, on the human rights of women and girl children, in particular with respect to the violation of those rights by their being forced into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for the profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates, as well as into other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour, false marriages, child marriages, clandestine employment and false adoption,

Acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in its resolution 3/2 of 6 May 1994 10/ to consider the international traffic in minors at its fourth session, in the context of its discussion on the question of organized transnational crime, and the adoption by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities of resolution 1994/5, in which the Subcommission recommended that Governments adopt legislation to prevent child prostitution and child pornography,

Concerned about the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and noting the misuse of advanced information technology for pornographic and trafficking purposes,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures at the national, regional and international levels to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

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7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 6 (E/1995/26), chap. I, sect. C.

8/ Ibid., 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

9/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

10/ Ibid., 1994, Supplement No. 11 (E/1994/31), chap. I, sect. C.

1. Welcomes the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 11/ held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, which, inter alia, called upon all Governments to prevent all international trafficking in migrants, especially for the purpose of prostitution, and for the adoption by Governments of both receiving countries and countries of origin of effective sanctions against those who organize undocumented migration, exploit undocumented migrants or engage in trafficking in undocumented migrants, especially those who engage in any form of international trafficking in women and girl children;

2. Calls for the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women 12/ by Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination and regional and international organizations, as appropriate:

(a) By considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(b) By taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(c) By stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(d) By allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training and the provision of legal assistance and confidential health care, as well as by taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

(e) By developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

3. Invites Governments to consider the development of standard minimum rules for the humanitarian treatment of trafficked persons, consistent with internationally recognized human rights standards;

11/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

12/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

4. Encourages Governments, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to gather and share information relative to all aspects of trafficking in women and girl children in order to facilitate the development of anti-trafficking measures, and to adopt appropriate measures to create wider public awareness of the problem;

5. Calls upon all Governments to take appropriate measures to prevent the misuse and exploitation by traffickers of such economic activities as the development of tourism and the export of labour and the use of advanced information technology, including cyberspace;

6. Encourages the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to continue to pay special attention to the problem of trafficking in women and girl children, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the usual channels;

7. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to focus the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 1996, on the problem of trafficking in human persons, especially women and children, and to devote one meeting of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly to the discussion of this problem;

8. Encourages the holding of an international conference on trafficking;

9. Decides to remain seized of this matter and to examine, at its forty-first session, the reports of the Special Rapporteurs and relevant organizations and bodies, with a view to making appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996.